

## PRINCIPALS' MONTHLY REPORT – FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

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With contributing reports from teachers, advisors, coaches, and the community.

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### Classrooms for the Future Technology Report

Wikis and podcasts and blogs! Oh my! Students at Fairview High School are using powerful Web 2.0 tools in their classrooms since they have returned from summer break! By using the laptops, Promethean boards, and high speed internet access, teachers have integrated their wikispaces, blogs, emails, and Google tools into the students' classroom activities and assignments. Students and teachers are engaged in 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking, learning, and teaching.

Mr. Lane's students are posting discussions about literature on his wiki [Fairview H.S. AP English](#). Although new to CFF this year, Mr. Brinling invited his students to his wetpaint wiki: [Movers and Shakers](#). Mrs. Nelson's students are posting to their class' private blog, and many teachers are streaming videos from Discovery Education. Students and teachers are collaborating using Google docs and forms, and Mrs. Hitt plans to Skype in an expert for one of her classes!

Fairview High School's 2008-2009 CFF funding will provide an additional 80 student laptops, 6 teacher laptops, and 6 Promethean boards as six Fairview High School teachers join the CFF team! These teachers look forward to integrating these new tools and teaching techniques into their classroom activities.

### WELLNESS DEPARTMENT

1. 97% of juniors last year passed the Red Cross CPR certification. We will aim for a similar target this year.
2. 2 seniors this year were administered the physical fitness test for entry into the service academies Air Force Academy and West Point. Neither has been appointed yet.
3. The BABIES are back!!! Babies will be issued this year to 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE Wellness students to demonstrate the high level of responsibility required for appropriate child care. (Note: Last year this was done with 10<sup>th</sup> graders.)

### ACADEMICS

#### SOCIAL STUDIES

The 11th Grade CP and HONORS classes will be initiating the Stock Market Game that will run b/t Oct 29th to Jan. 12th. 2) Those same classes will be working in conjunction with the University of Virginia with a Mock General Election for the Presidency of the United States as well as the 3rd Congressional PA District race. These elections will be held via online also the last week in October.

There is a possibility of Congressman Phil English's coming to talk to our students in the government classes. An effort will be made to also invite Kathy Dahlkemper, the Democratic congressional challenger to give students her ideas as well.

### SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The FHS Science department has just completed a curriculum review in order to better align our curriculum with the PA Science Standards. This year's freshman class of 2012 will be the first to complete the new sequence which includes ninth grade Environmental Science, 10<sup>th</sup> grade Biology, 11<sup>th</sup> grade Chemistry and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Physics. In addition to the four required science courses, upper level electives include Anatomy and Physiology, AP Biology, AP Chemistry and AP Physics.

The first semester Environmental Science Students will be traveling to the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at the end of October for a field trip. Highlights of the trip will include fish and algae identification, water testing, a study of invasive species, and a viewing of *Mysteries of the Great Lakes*.

Approximately two dozen FHS students will be participating in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition this academic year. The competition is open to any student interested in designing, conducting, analyzing and presenting an independent research project. Interested students should contact Mrs. Candace Magraw.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Congratulations to senior student, Veronica Smith, for being recognized as a recipient of the prestigious NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) Achievement Award in Writing. As Fairview's nominee, Veronica submitted samples of her own writing from coursework here at Fairview along with a two-hour timed writing sample. Of the 1,789 juniors nominated across the state and the 525 chosen as *outstanding writers*, Veronica's writing earned her the Certificate of Superior Writing that went out to fewer than 20 students. According to the NCTE, the winners are among the best student writers in the country, and the Council congratulates the Fairview English department and their efforts in producing superior student writers.

- 9th grade American Studies students of Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Hurt will participate in the *Speakeasy* event on Friday, October 17 at FHS. We observed this fascinating visit to the American past and talked to 'actual figures' from the era. Students researched historical figures to 'become' that person with the help of librarian, Mrs. Crotty and the teachers. Students were given helpful suggestions about how best to portray their respective characters. Art, music, food, costumes, and contests occurred to immerse students in the Roaring 20's.

- The student book club is off and running for the year. Over a dozen students are reading books chosen by the students in the club. The faculty and staff also have a book club as well and meet monthly to discuss the readings. Everyone is welcome to join either of these clubs.

## **CONSUMER SCIENCE**

Our Foods and Nutrition class, under the direction of student teacher, Nicolena Husted, recently participated in an Iron Chef competition. Based on the popular Food Network television show, student chefs were required to find a recipe, order ingredients, and prepare their product which included the secret ingredient, BROCCOLI. Students were judged on the use of the broccoli, following the recipe correctly, preparation and presentation of the dish and clean up. They had 80 minutes to complete the entire project.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

### ***CHOLET STUDENTS ARRIVE***

On Saturday, October 19, at 7:40 pm, the latest chapter of the Cholet Exchange began.

Twenty-six students and three adults from the Lycée Renaudeau in Cholet arrived at the high school. During their two-week stay, the students will live with Fairview families, attend classes, take excursions to Niagara Falls, Waterford, Pittsburgh and Cleveland and do whatever the host families have scheduled.

The Cholet Exchange came to Fairview in 1993. Fairview Middle School teacher Sharon Lee Youngs started the exchange while teaching in the Carlisle area. When she moved to Fairview, she brought the exchange with her. Since that time, Cholet students have come to Fairview eight times.

The group will end their stay November 1 by visiting New York City on their way back to France.

The Cholet students are accompanied by Christiane Bouvier (making her sixth visit to Fairview), Françoise Dandonneau (her fourth visit), and Annette Lagacé who is coming to Fairview for the first time.

In April, a group of 14 students and adults will continue the exchange by spending a week in Cholet and visiting other areas of France including Paris, Normandy and the Loire River Valley.

1. Costa Rica - Plans are in the making for an eco-friendly student trip to Costa Rica. Tentative departure is June 6, and returning the 14. A parent meeting will be held September 26 after school, with first payment due in mid-October.
2. Clubs – The annual cookie dough fundraiser was kicked off with a joint club meeting. Due to the enthusiastic attendance, more joint efforts are being planned: sharing culinary treats, crafts and caroling.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

A binder, called *Special Education 2008-2009*, was produced as a reference tool for our teachers to help them better assist their students with special needs. This binder contains all pertinent information, such as specific suggestions for adaptations and accommodations that can be made to help students succeed in their classes.

## **ARTS**

Our popular Photography class has finished learning the darkroom film development process and is now moving on to their first digital project – restoring old and damaged photos. These classes are able to utilize our new photo lab with all new computers, scanners, printers, and powerful PhotoShop software. Some of their clever and eye-catching work adorns our halls.

## **ATHLETICS**

**Athletics:** As the Fall Sports Season comes to an end, a number of Fairview teams prepare for the playoffs.

*Fairview High School was given the PIAA 2007-2008 Sportsmanship Award at the October 15<sup>th</sup> District 10 Athletic Director's Meeting in Titusville. The award is given to schools who exhibit good sportsmanship on and off the field throughout the school year.*

- The football team improved its record to an impressive 6-1 with a 35-7 victory over Harbor Creek. The win virtually guarantees the Tigers a playoff bid. Jared Lane led the way with 312 yards rushing on 28 carries. Lane has registered 504 yards on the ground in the last two games.
- The boys' and girls' soccer teams are getting ready for the post season. The girls are ranked seventh in the state and are currently tied for first place in Region 3. Chrissy Keck leads all District 10 scorers with 83 goals this season. The girls are 12-1 in the region and 13-2-1 overall. The boys are 10-4 in regional play and 12-4 overall.
- The girls' tennis team completed another successful season. The Lady Tigers were 10-2 on the year and placed second in Region 2. Five seniors will graduate, but a solid foundation for the future has been set with eight freshman gaining valuable experience this season.
- The golf team registered its fourth region championship in five years. The Tigers also have a number of underclassmen returning next year.
- The girls' volleyball team has a 9-8 record on the season. The Lady Tigers are currently in fourth place in Region 5.
- The boys' and girls' cross country teams finished successful regular seasons as they prepare for district and state competition. The boys finished tied for first place in regional competition. Injuries to several runners hampered the Tigers in the Region 5 Meet. The boys finished second in the race.
- The girls finished first in the region during the regular season. The Lady Tigers also finished second in the Region 5 Meet.
- The girls' Water Polo team earned its first two victories in team history. The girls have a 2-10 record on the season. The Lady Tigers faced a very difficult schedule, playing large, well-established teams around the state.

The following students were named athlete of the week from 9/15 to 9/20

Football	No Game
Boy's Soccer	Joe Berdis
Girl's Soccer	Ashley Lehr
Volleyball	Meagan Weaver
Golf	Robert Duran
Girl's X- Country	Hallin Nies
Boy's X- Country	C.J. Kennett
Girl's Tennis	Kristina Barnes
Cheerleading	Mackenzie Schneider
Band	Christina Reim

The following students were named athlete of the week from 9/23 to 9/27

Football	Steve Turner
	Jared Lane
Boy's Soccer	Sam Havko
Girl's Soccer	Taylor McCracken
Volleyball	Brittney Sargent
Golf	Shane Loper
Girl's X- Country	Bethany Corbin
Boy's X- Country	Brit Claridge
Girl's Tennis	Kelsey Grode
Cheerleading	Chelcie Gette
Band	Lindsey Cacini

The following students were named athlete of the week from 9/31 to 10/4

Football	Brooks Linkowski
	Neil Kruse
Boy's Soccer	None
Girl's Soccer	Ellie Westfall
Volleyball	Rebecca McKinney
Golf	Tim Myers
Girl's X- Country	Katie Michael
Boy's X- Country	Greg Facchine
Girl's Tennis	Emily Symes
Cheerleading	Kayla Gastor
Band	Gary Schneider

The following students were named athlete of the week 10/7 to 10/11

Football	Brooks Linkowski
	Jordan Kerner
Boy's Soccer	Andrew Baldwin
	Garrett Stolz
Girl's Soccer	Jordan Sanfrotello
Volleyball	None
Golf	Season's Over
Girl's X- Country	None
Boy's X- Country	None
Girl's Tennis	Alicia Sturdivant
Cheerleading	Jordan Baro
Band	Jake Budzynski

### **ATTENDANCE**

Average Absences for this period is 4.8% per day.  
Average Tardies for this period is 13.6 per day or 2.2%.

### **BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

- The press box was torn down due to the supports having rotted out thus creating an unsafe structure. We have begun the process to investigate the replacement of this facility for the spring or summer of 2009. Temporary arrangements have been made for the rest of the fall activities that are held in the stadium.

### **DISCIPLINE**

Detentions are starting to increase as the number of tardies increase as the year goes on. A number of letters have been sent out, warning parents about attendance issues.

The Refocus Room has been used mainly for academic support and several minor discipline problems. One student has been sent to the Alternative Education Center (CAEP).

The HALT Anti-bullying class meetings continue every Tuesday at FHS. The four basic rules of the program have been covered as well as several news articles on the new state law. A DVD on "Protecting Kids Online" was shown to the entire school on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **GUIDANCE**

1) Seventy-two students took the PSAT/NMSQT test on Wednesday, October 15. This exam prepares juniors and sophomores for the SAT exam. It also identifies possible junior National Merit Scholars.

- 2) In order to help meet the state career education standards, all ninth graders are going to attend a presentation on the Erie County Vocational School at Fairview High School. Shortly after the presentation, all ninth graders will visit the tech school to explore alternative career pathways.
- 3) Preparation for scheduling for the 2009-2010 school year has begun. The guidance counselors spent the in-service day developing possible solutions to schedule concerns. A timeline has been developed for the scheduling process to ensure that students' schedules are distributed before the end of the current school year.
- 4) The National Council of Teachers of English awarded Veronica Smith an achievement award in writing.
- 5) Mrs. Tann has been working on updating the Program of Studies book. Once it is completed parents will be able to access the correct information online.
- 6) The procedure for reporting failures to compile the weekly eligibility list has been revised. Counselors now receive both the names of who is failing and a description of the reason(s) for the students' failures.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Because of a need to facilitate our younger students' getting to the buses on time, locker bays were switched for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders on 10/10/08. There was a great deal of controversy about this due to the fact that the 11<sup>th</sup> graders felt that they should keep the same locker for four years as have students at FHS for decades before. There was a need, however, to think of ways to assist those students who most utilize the buses, to be closest to the buses for the afternoon pickups (on the west side of the building). The new system will have students keeping their lockers for two years and then moving to the other side of the building for their junior and senior years. It was the right and fair thing to do for the sake of efficiency and safety for our youngest students and does NOT create an undue hardship for our older students, most of whom either drive, ride with friends who drive, or stay for extracurriculars. Even if the older students take the buses there is time for them to reach the buses on time. One other important note: some of the juniors complained that we had not moved lockers to help them when they were freshmen. We would not have NEEDED to move their lockers because they already were on the *right* side of the building to catch buses. We have changed the situation so that everyone now will have that circumstance. When the actual move took place, despite warnings of a sitdown and other civil disobedience, we broke up the juniors by homeroom, doing the homerooms one at a time, and the resistance was tame. We did have some relatively minor acts of vandalism in the locker bay, however. Now that we are days past the event – everyone is used to the arrangement and living with it.

There was a change pertaining to traffic flow in the morning for drop-offs of students. We made this change to deal with a problem of congestion and hazards for drivers and pedestrians as a result of two way traffic. We have made the road that is closest to the building on the south side of the building ONE WAY – FROM EAST TO WEST for the mornings only.

Cars that are dropping off students at the south side of the building by the school office must enter the south lot by the tennis courts and proceed down to the ramp on the east side of the lot ...dropping off their students and then exiting by the southwest corner of the building. We have our teacher monitors advising parents who still don't know about the change – they are needing to talk to an average of two parents per day. We do have plans to install a sign to help with the notification, but the plan has already been a success.

### **OTHER EXTRACURRICULARS**

Homecoming was a major success. The good weather helped this year making for a pleasant time for children at the fair. We lost in the football game against a tough Northeast team. Taylor McCracken was named Queen and Amy McCann was the Princess this year. Their escorts were Sam Havko and Ryan Armel respectively. Our homecoming dance was a popular event on Saturday. We had over 500 students (almost 100 were guests from other schools or alumni as dates). There were no disciplinary problems of any kind at any of the homecoming events.

## KEY CLUB

For the month of September, Key Club members volunteered 753 hours. (This included summer volunteer hours)

## PARENTS GROUPS

PATS and other groups in the high school have attempted at various times to provide fun and SAFE activities for students at different after school events. The success of these events are dependent on attendance and parental support. Please consider discouraging student parties in your home or other activities on the date of a school dance, Prom to Dawn, or a sporting event, etc. The cost for the entertainment, the hours of planning by students and parents, and the time donated by chaperones is often disregarded when parents plan in-home activities or students make alternative choices. We need to meet our costs in order to continue to plan group activities in a safe environment for our high school students.

Please encourage your child to attend any of the various sporting events - each team needs their support and a sense of community and school spirit is developed by their attendance.

Always ask your student where they are going and if a parent will be in a home to supervise a party. Call the parent in charge to see if they will be home for the entire evening and if you can contribute any refreshments to help with the planning.? Our children are precious commodities and unsupervised, poor choices can be made which may lead to devastating consequences. As a community we can work together to keep our children safe and happy.

## PROGRAMS

MENTORING PROGRAM by upperclassmen for 9<sup>th</sup> graders:

### Mentor of the Month for the month of October

Jameson Testi

### Monthly Refocus Room Update

This month has been an active one in the Refocus Room. First, the same students stop by for Emotional Support and just wanting to talk. Second, the Academic support has increased largely over the past month, as well as the After School Academic Support Program (ASASP). There have also been a few new programs that have been set up for various students that are different from in the past. Here is a listing of the total number of students that came, and for what reason they were here:

Gross Disrespect	Threatening Behavior: Verbal	Disruptive Behavior	AWOL	Assaulting Behavior	Unsafe Behavior	Inappropriate Language
38	1	2	5	2	2	10

Racial Slurs	Emotional Support	Academic Support	ASASP	Other
2	28	92	25	17